



# Press Release

Baltimore City Office of Emergency Management

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## **Baltimore Scores Highest in National Homeland Security Grant Application**

**Baltimore, MD** – Bolstered by a 23% increase in Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant funds for fiscal year 2007, officials for Baltimore's Office of Emergency Management are celebrating the highest application score for a UASI grant in the country.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Baltimore City scored a perfect 100% on this year's application, ranking it at the top of the 46 federally designated urban areas across the country. The city's score means that the Baltimore Urban Area will be awarded \$11,910,000 compared to just over \$9.6 million in FY 2006.

Nationally, the UASI award amount is determined by a risk formula and a specific urban area's overall strength of application. An area's risk assessment counts for two-thirds of the score and how well the area plans its overall homeland security strategy makes up the final third. Baltimore's application received 100 out of a possible 100 points, compared to an average of 83 points among all 46 urban areas across country.

"This year's score is indicative of the commitment by OEM's staff, and our UASI partners around the region, to keeping the metropolitan area properly prepared and trained for any potential hazards that have become unfortunate realities for every American city in today's world," said Chief William Goodwin, Jr. of yesterday's announcement.

The Department of Homeland Security employs a peer review process to evaluate the anticipated effectiveness of proposed FY 2007 Homeland Security Grant Program investments from each state and urban area. Approximately 150 peer reviewers from across the nation participated in the FY 2007 review process and provided scores and direct feedback for applicants.

An urban area's Grant Investment Score is based on 12 categories ranging from communications interoperability and critical infrastructure protection to citizen preparedness and participation. Its Anticipated Effectiveness is comprised of six investment category scores including overall strategy, and program management among others.

In FY 2007, the Baltimore Urban Area applied for \$38,426,672 in UASI funds. Including this year's award the Baltimore has brought in \$59,743,286 since FY 2003.

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